[English]

Hongkong Indians

146. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR:

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of persons of Indian origin and capital in Hongkong are likely to return back to India following transfer of the territory to China after July 1, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof and number of Indians settled in Hongkong at present; and

(c) the assurance for maintenance of conditions congenial to their continuance in the territory, if any has been sought or given by China to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA): (a) to (c) Government has not come across reports that large numbers of persons of Indian origin settled in Hongkong are likely to return to India, following the resumption of sovereignty by China on July 1, 1997.

According to the information available with the Government, there are approximately 28,000 persons of Indian origin resident in Hongkong at present, of which about 22,000 are Indian passport holders; the remaining hold British or third country documents.

The Chinese and the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) authorities have expressed appreciation of the contribution of the Indian community to Hongkong's economic development and its social and cultural life. The Chief Executive Officer of the HKSAR, Mr. Tung Chee-Hwa, has assured us that the Indian community would continue to be welcome in Hongkong.

Global Market for Hardware

147. SHRI L. RAMANA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ISRO propose to enter global market for sale hardware;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the future space programmes of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The primary objective of Indian space Programme is development of space technology for national developmental applications. However, the capabilities built in meeting this primary objective are also used for exploiting the global market. For this purpose Antrix Corporation Limited, the commercial arm of Department of Space was set up in September 1992. Antrix has been establishing contacts with users of space hardware world wide and has already bagged a few contracts for supply of hardware for ground systems and space systems. These include data reception and processing hardware, satellite mechanical parts, inertial systems, propulsion elements, etc. Besides, Antrix Corporation has entered into a commercial agreement with SI-EOSAT of the US under which data from India's Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) Satellites is received and marketed worldwide.

Also DOS has signed an agreement with the International Telecommunication Sattelite Organisation, INTELSAT, for lease of an equivalent of eleven 36 Mhz C-band transponder capacity on Indian National Satellite-2E (INSAT-2E) to be launched by India in 1998.

(c) India's future space programme envisages continuation and enhancement of space services in the areas of telecommunication, television broadcasting, meteorology, disaster management and resources survey through advanced IRS and INSAT Satellites. Commensurate launch capabilities will be built with Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and Geosynchronous Satellite Launching Vehicle (GSLV).

Refugees of J & K

148. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people were forced to leave Jammu and Kashmir during the last 10-15 years because of terrorist activities in the State;

(b) if so, the number of persons, who left their properties in the State and are residing in different parts of the country;

(c) the details of persons in each camp or town; and

(d) the facilities and concessions being given by the Union Government/State Government to such refugees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (c) A Statement-I showing the number of Kashmiri migrants living in various States/Union Territories is attached.

(d) Various States/U.T. Governments provide relief as per norms/rules in vogue in those State/UTs and according to their resources. A Statement-II showing the scales of relief in various States/UTs is attached. The Kashmiri migrants are being given educational, medical and other facilities also. Migrants in camps are also provided free accommodation, medical facilities, electricity, water supply, etc.